



United States Department of Energy

Office of Public Affairs

Las Vegas, NV 89134

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Allen Benson, (702) 794-1322

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S. Department of Energy Certifies Its Document Collection for Yucca Mountain License Application

Las Vegas, NV – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today certified its document collection for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) electronic Licensing Support Network (LSN), further advancing the Yucca Mountain repository licensing process. DOE has made electronically available on the NRC LSN over 3.5 million documents, estimated to exceed 30 million pages. DOE is required to certify its LSN document collection prior to submitting its license application to the NRC for authorization to construct the Yucca Mountain repository.

"Yucca Mountain is one of the most studied pieces of real estate in the world," Edward F. Sproat, III, Director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, said. "Through the NRC's electronic network, the public can view scientific data, geologic analyses, and other documents related to DOE's license application for the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste repository."

The LSN was established by the NRC to support the licensing proceeding for the Yucca Mountain repository. The LSN is a web-based information system that enables the public to review documentary materials related to DOE's license application for the nation's first spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste repository, to be located at Yucca Mountain, in Nye County, Nevada. DOE plans to submit its license application by June 30, 2008 and will continue to add documentary material to its LSN document collection.

Today's certification represents a significant milestone on the path to DOE's submittal of a high-quality license application to the NRC. In March, DOE submitted legislation to Congress to enhance the nation's ability to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In June, DOE announced the final performance requirements for canisters that will minimize the need for repetitive handling of commercial spent nuclear fuel by using the same canister from the time it leaves a nuclear power plant to its disposal in Yucca Mountain. This month DOE also issued for public comment draft National Environmental Policy Act documents relating to the Yucca Mountain Project.

The NRC's Licensing Support Network is available at <http://www.lsnnet.gov>. Persons without access to the internet may use public access computers at the following locations: DOE public

reading room (1E-190), U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C.; Pahrump Yucca Mountain Information Center, 2341 Postal Dr., Pahrump, NV 89048; and most community libraries, colleges and universities worldwide.

Yucca Mountain was approved by the Congress and President Bush as the site for the nation's first permanent spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste geologic repository in 2002. For more information on DOE's Yucca Mountain Project, visit www.ocrwm.doe.gov

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Washington, D.C. 20585

News Media Contact:

Allen Benson, (702) 794-1322

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 4, 2007

U. S. Department of Energy Issues National Environmental Policy Act Documents for Public Comment

Las Vegas, NV – The U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week is issuing for public comment two Draft National Environmental Policy Act documents related to the Yucca Mountain Project. The 90-day comment period begins October 12, 2007 and ends January 10, 2008.

- *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (Draft Repository SEIS)
- *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada – Nevada Rail Transportation Corridor* (Draft Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS) *and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (Draft Rail Alignment EIS)

The first document, the Draft Repository SEIS, is a supplement to the Yucca Mountain Final EIS that DOE issued in 2002. The Draft Repository SEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Yucca Mountain repository under the repository design and operational plans that have been developed since the Yucca Mountain Final EIS was issued.

The second document relates to the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in Nevada and contains two parts. The first part, the Draft Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS, considers the potential environmental impacts of transport along the Mina corridor, which was analyzed in response to public comments. It also updates the information and analysis for other Nevada rail corridors evaluated in the Yucca Mountain Final EIS. The second part, the Draft Rail Alignment EIS, evaluates the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a railroad along specific alignments for both the Mina and Caliente corridors, although Caliente is the Department's preferred corridor.

DOE has scheduled eight public hearings for interested parties to comment on the two draft documents. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Hawthorne, Nevada. Hawthorne Convention Center, 932 E. Street, November 13, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Caliente, Nevada. Caliente Youth Center, U.S. Highway 93, November 15, 2007, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.
- Reno/Sparks, Nevada. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia Street, November 19, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Town of Amargosa Valley, Nevada. Longstreet Inn & Casino, Highway 373, November 26, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Goldfield, Nevada. Goldfield School Gymnasium, Hall & Euclid, November 27, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Lone Pine, California. Statham Hall, 138 N. Jackson Street, November 29, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Las Vegas, Nevada. Cashman Center, 850 Las Vegas Blvd., December 3, 2007, from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Washington, D.C. Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, N.W., December 5, 2007, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Requests for additional information on the Draft Repository SEIS and the Draft Nevada Rail Corridor SEIS and Draft Rail Alignment EIS may be submitted to the EIS Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, 1551 Hillshire Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134 or by calling 1-800-967-3477 or faxing a request to 1-800-967-0739.

Written comments may be submitted to the EIS Office at the above address, or by facsimile to 1-800-967-0739, or via the Internet at: <http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov>.

These documents represent two major milestones on the path to DOE's submittal of an application for construction authorization to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by June 30, 2008. Yucca Mountain was approved by the Congress and the President as the site for the nation's first permanent spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste geologic repository in 2002.

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